

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	CRIMINAL ACTION NO.
)	2:18cr243-MHT
WILLIAM DCORY MAURICE)	(WO)
EASTERLY)	

OPINION AND ORDER

This case is before the court on defendant William Dcory Maurice Easterly's motion to continue the trial date. For the reasons set forth below, the court finds that Easterly's upcoming jury trial, now set for November 18, 2019, should be continued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h).

While the granting of a continuance is left to the sound discretion of the trial judge, *see United States v. Stitzer*, 785 F.2d 1506, 1516 (11th Cir. 1986), the court is limited by the requirements of the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161. The Act provides in part:

"In any case in which a plea of not guilty is entered, the trial of a defendant charged in an information or indictment with the commission of an

offense shall commence within seventy days from the filing date (and making public) of the information or indictment, or from the date the defendant has appeared before a judicial officer of the court in which such charge is pending, whichever date last occurs."

§ 3161(c)(1). The Act excludes from the 70-day period any continuance based on "findings that the ends of justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial." § 3161(h)(7)(A). In granting such a continuance, the court may consider, among other factors, whether the failure to grant the continuance "would be likely to ... result in a miscarriage of justice," § 3161(h)(7)(B)(i), or "would deny counsel for the defendant or the attorney for the Government the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence." § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv).

The court concludes that, in this case, the ends of justice served by granting a continuance outweigh the interest of the public and Easterly in a speedy trial.

Trial is currently set for November 18, 2019, and a new attorney was appointed to represent Easterly on October 31, 2019. A continuance is warranted so that Easterly's attorney may have the time necessary for effective preparation, including meeting with her new client, reviewing the discovery, and otherwise preparing for trial. The government does not oppose a continuance.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED as follows:

(1) Defendant William Dcory Maurice Easterly's motion to continue trial (doc. no. 468) is granted.

(2) The jury selection and trial for defendant Easterly, now set for November 18, 2019, are reset for January 6, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom 2FMJ of the Frank M. Johnson Jr. United States Courthouse Complex, One Church Street, Montgomery, Alabama.

The United States Magistrate Judge shall conduct a pretrial conference in advance of the January 6, 2020

trial term, and shall reset the deadline for entering a change of plea and any other appropriate deadlines.

DONE, this the 4th day of November, 2019.

/s/ Myron H. Thompson
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE